

No Monkeying

had been considerably timed to take place after the closing of the Paris Bourse so as to give French speculators a short respite before having to wrestle with the difficulties he knew his death would make for them; like Carto's solicitude for friends at sea on the stormy night he took his life. The fortunate coincidence that an American millionaire and philanthropist, Mr. George Eastman, whose finances were in perfect order, should have killed himself on the day after Kreuger did, provided an opportunity to run the two suicides in together, the note Mr. Eastman left behind him ('My work is done. Why wait?') being made to do service for both.

As little by little details of Kreuger's transactions, and of the insolvency he had left behind him, became known, his admirers became more reticent. The final blow was the discovery that his liabilities exceeded £50,000,000, and that he had forged forty-two Italian Treasury Bonds for £500,000 each to replenish his dwindling assets. Even, it was felt, being crushed between the icebergs of a frozen world scarcely justified such irregularities.

The *Daily Express* and other popular newspapers, where *The Economist* and Mr. Keynes had ended, entertaining their readers with accounts of the luxurious flats Kreuger had in all the capitals of Europe, and the mistresses he kept to enliven his leisure hours. From being an austere master-financier whose careful plans were upset by circumstances beyond his control, he was transformed into a swindler and debauchee whose balance sheets were as fraudulent as his way of life was reprehensible.

Reading of the magnitude of his transactions,
how he lent
enormous sums of money to governments and
floated so many
companies that the mere investigation of his affairs
was a lengthy
and arduous undertaking, it seemed wonderful
that so elaborate
a structure should have been, built on so trifling a
foundation as
matches. The only reality behind the millions of
pounds he
manipulated, were these little sticks of wood
dipped in sulphur
used to light a fire in the morning or a pipe after
breakfast. By
means of them, he made himself so powerful
that his death